

Message Text

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SUBJECT: TURKISH EMBARGO REPEAL: WASHINGTON STAR EDITORIAL

1. FOLLOWING IS TEXT OF WASHINGTON STAR EDITORIAL JUNE 7
ENTITLED "TURKISH-AMERICAN RELATIONS."

2. BEGIN QUOTE: THE CARTER ADMINISTRATION HAS OPENED AN
ELABORATE CAMPAIGN TO GET CONGRESS TO DROP THE THREE-YEAR-
OLD ARMS EMBARGO AGAINST TURKEY. THERE WILL BE BRIEFINGS
AT THE WHITE HOUSE FOR "UNCOMMITTED" CONGRESSMEN, AT WHICH
THE PRESIDENT WILL BE JOINED BY TOP OFFICIALS OF DEFENSE
AND STATE TO DISCUSS THE ISSUE. GENERAL HAIG WILL RETURN
FROM EUROPE FOR SOME SUCH SESSIONS. OUR AMBASSADOR TO TUR-
KEY WILL PERFORM SIMILAR DUTY. THE ADMINISTRATION HOPES TO
ENLIST THE VETERANS' ORGANIZATIONS IN BUILDING "GRASS ROOTS"
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SUPPORT FOR ITS POSITION THAT A KEY NATO ALLY SHOULD NOT BE
CRIPPLED AND ALIENATED BECAUSE OF A LONG-PENDING DISPUTE
WITH ANOTHER NATO ALLY AND NEIGHBOR.

3. POLITICALLY, THE EFFORT COULD BE A RISKY INVESTMENT OF
PRESIDENTIAL PRESTIGE IN A FOREDOOMED CAUSE. THE SENATE
FOREIGN RELATIONS COMMITTEE LAST MONTH REAFFIRMED THE EM-

BARGO IN AN 8 TO 4 VOTE. THAT SEEMED TO CANCEL AN 18 TO 17 VOTE AGAINST THE EMBARGO IN THE HOUSE INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS COMMITTEE. THE ADMINISTRATION'S CURRENT MISSIONARY

WORK LOOKS IMMEDIATELY TO A HOUSE VOTE LATE THIS MONTH.

4. THE EMBARGO SUPPOSEDLY IS A LEGAL REACTION TO THE TURKS' USE OF AMERICAN-SUPPLIED ARMS IN THEIR 1974 OCCUPATION OF MORE THAN A THIRD OF CYPRUS, AFTER A COUP ON THE ISLAND BY GREEK-CYPRIOT EXTREMISTS WAS SEEN AS A MOVE TOWARD UNION WITH GREECE AND A THREAT TO THE TURKISH-CYPRIOT MINORITY. WHAT CONGRESS REALLY DID WAS TAKE SIDES IN THE REGIONAL QUARREL, FOR GREECE AND AGAINST TURKEY, LARGELY BECAUSE OF EFFECTIVE LOBBYING BY GREEK AND GREEK-AMERICAN INTERESTS.

5. ADVOCATES OF THE EMBARGO CLAIMED IT WOULD PROMOTE A CYPRUS SETTLEMENT BY ENCOURAGING TURKEY TO MAKE CONCESSIONS. THERE IS NO SIGN OF THIS HAPPENING. THE FORMER DEMIREL GOVERNMENT IN ANKARA VEHEMENTLY RESISTED SUCH PRESSURE. PRIME MINISTER ECEVIT SAYS HE HAS BROKEN THE "LINKAGE" BETWEEN THE EMBARGO AND CYPRUS, IN MAKING NEW CYPRUS PROPOSALS WITHOUT WAITING FOR THE EMBARGO TO BE LIFTED, BUT HE CONTENDS THE EMBARGO NOW MAKES THE GREEKS INTRANSIGENT ABOUT A CYPRUS SETTLEMENT, CAUSING THEM TO HOPE FOR A WEAKENING OF THE TURKISH BARGAINING POSITION.

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6. IN THE MEANTIME, THE EMBARGO CLEARLY HAS DAMAGED TURKISH-AMERICAN RELATIONS, HAS CONTRIBUTED TO THE LOSS OF U.S. BASES IN TURKEY AND HAS HURT BOTH THE CREDIBILITY OF NATO AS AN ALLIANCE AND THE MILITARY STRENGTH OF ONE OF ITS IMPORTANT MEMBERS. THE SITUATION WAS A SERIOUS EMBARRASSMENT AT THE NATO SUMMIT HERE LAST WEEK.

7. ONE OF THE PURPOSES OF SUCH PUBLICIZED HIGH-LEVEL GATHERINGS IS TO DEMONSTRATE THE UNITY AND RESOLVE OF THE ALLIES FOR THE BENEFIT OF POTENTIAL ADVERSARIES. IT DID NOT HELP TO HAVE MR. ECEVIT EXPLAIN HOW FINANCIAL DIFFICULTIES, WORSENERED BY THE EMBARGO, NECESSITATED CUTBACKS OF TURKEY'S NATO COMMITMENTS, AND TO HAVE THE TURKISH LEADER USE WHAT IS NORMALLY A MARTIAL OCCASION TO TALK UP DETENTE WITH THE SOVIET UNION AND HIS IMMINENT VISIT TO MOSCOW.

8. IT DID NOT HELP, EITHER, TO HAVE GREEK PRIME MINISTER KARAMANLIS ARGUE FOR CONTINUED TROUBLE IN TURKISH-AMERICAN RELATIONS, ON THE GROUND THAT ENDING THE EMBARGO WOULD DAMAGE GREEK-AMERICAN RELATIONS. THE GREEK CONTRIBUTION

TO NATO IN RECENT YEARS HAS BEEN TO BLAME THE ALLIANCE FOR THE CYPRUS MESS AND WITHDRAW FROM MILITARY PARTICIPATION WHILE SEEKING TO RILE U.S.-TURKISH DEALINGS.

9. WHAT A MAJORITY OF CONGRESS MUST DO AT LAST, IN RECONSIDERING THE EMBARGO, IS TO DISTINGUISH BETWEEN VITAL AMERICAN INTERESTS, AND THE NARROW GREEK INTEREST IN PRESERVING A PRESUMED BARGAINING CHIP TO PLAY AGAINST TURKEY. THE U.S. INTEREST IS IN A STRONG AND FRIENDLY TURKEY PLAYING AN IMPORTANT ROLE IN NATO. THIS DOES NOT PRECLUDE AN EQUIVALENTLY FRIENDLY AND VALUABLE RELATIONSHIP WITH GREECE. AMERICA'S GOOD OFFICES ARE AVAILABLE TO AID IN A CYPRUS SETTLEMENT, BUT THIS CAN BEST BE DONE WITHOUT SUCH PARTIALITY AS THE EMBARGO PROCLAIMS.

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10. GREECE AND ITS AMERICAN FRIENDS SHOULD UNDERSTAND THIS.

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